

Congratulations are in order for several state agencies and municipalities who received a Fiscal Year 1996 Commonwealth of Massachusetts "Buy Recycled Award" for their outstanding accomplishments in closing the recycling loop. The awards, sponsored by the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division(OSD) and Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group(MassPIRG), were presented at the 2nd Annual Buy Recycled Vendor Fair and Conference on November 21, 1996, before a crowd of over 200 state, county and local purchasers/administrators, school business managers, and recycling coordinators attending the event.

A "Best Overall Program" award went to the Massachusetts Highway Department for their efforts in purchasing a variety of products throughout the year, including the purchase of re-refined motor oil, recycled anti-freeze and plastic lumber benches and table. A similar municipal "Best Overall Program" award went to the Town of Westport for its efforts in purchasing an array of products along with writing a public procurement policy that encourages recycled purchasing. The award for the "Most Innovative Program" went to the Department of Environmental Management for purchasing such items as plastic lumber boundary markers, and composting toilets, while the Metropolitan District Commission received the "Best Targeted Program" for their \$15,000 + worth of recycled paint purchases. The Massachusetts Hospital School was awarded the "Best Facility Program" for a state agency, in view of their use of recycled paint and the purchase of a plastic lumber floating dock, which they anticipate will save time and money through reduced maintenance costs. Finally, the "Best Written Policy" was awarded to the Town of Maynard, and the "Best University Program" to UMass Amherst.

OSD plans to make these awards on an annual basis. For more information on the awards or to learn how to apply, call Marcia Deegler at 617-727-7500 x356.